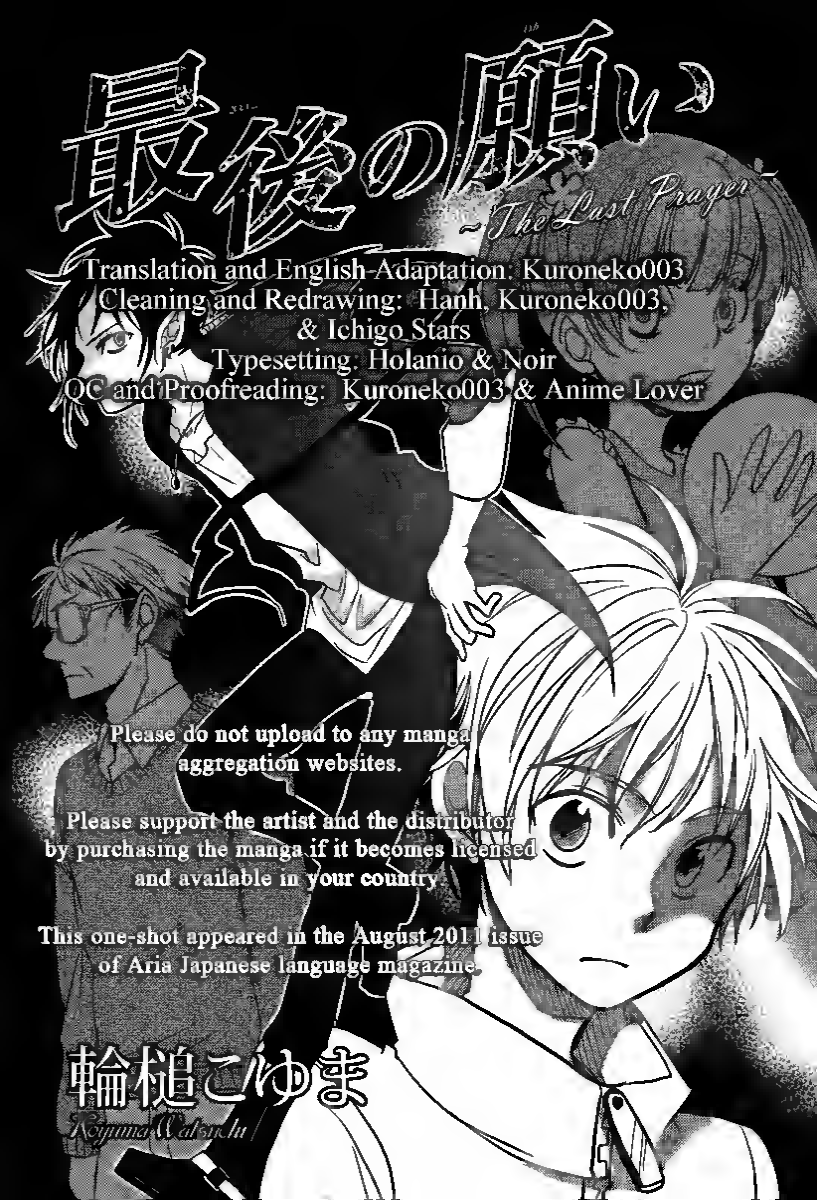
最後の願い
~The Last Prayer~
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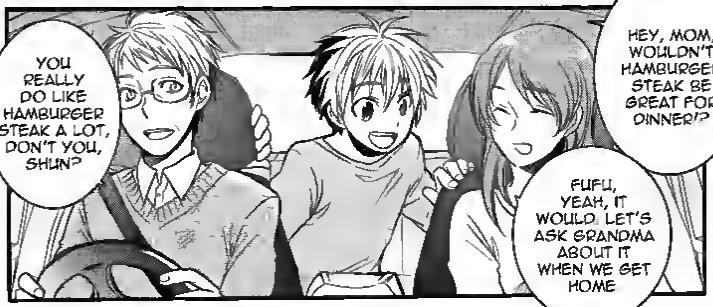
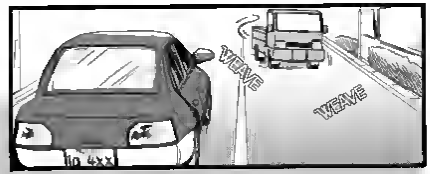
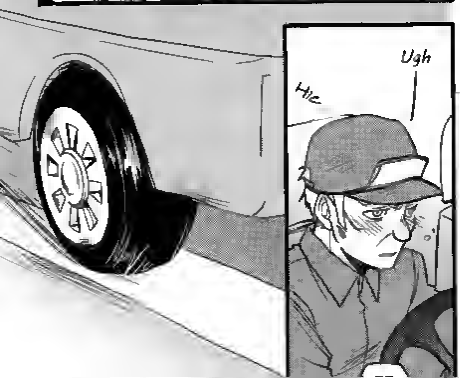
of Aria Japanese language magazine.
輪槌こゆま
Koyuma Watatsuchi

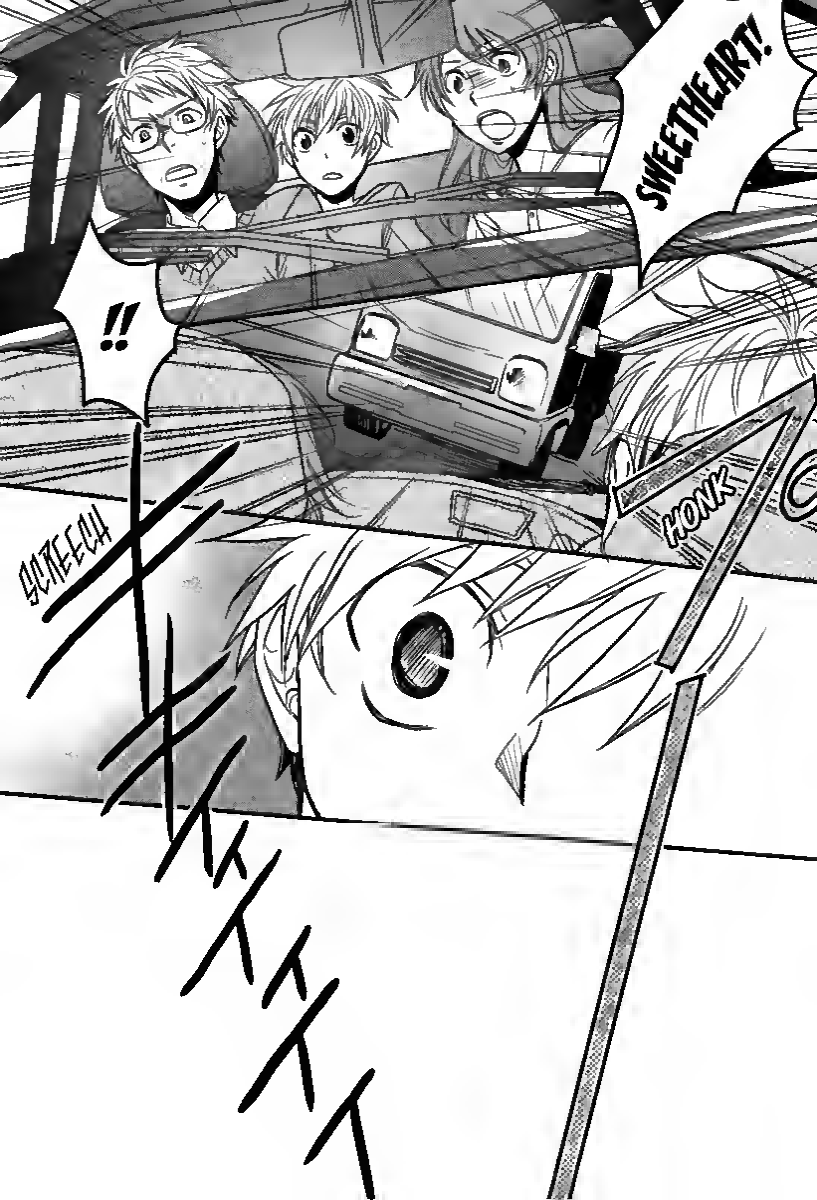
最後の願い
~The Last Prayer~
A boy's fate changed after an encounter at a traffic accident!?
A STYLISH HORROR STORY SET ON A COOL SUMMER'S EVENING
輪槌こゆま
Koyuma Watsuchi


HEY, MOM, WOULDN'T HAMBURGER STEAK BE GREAT FOR DINNER!?
FUFU, YEAH, IT WOULD. LET'S ASK GRANDMA ABOUT IT WHEN WE GET HOME
YOU REALLY DO LIKE HAMBURGER STEAK A LOT, DON'T YOU, SHUN?





A boy, Shun, was happy up until this moment.


SWEETHEART!
!!
SCREECH
HONK

BYE, SHUN!
1 YEAR LATER
BYE! SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!
THAT GIRL...
ARE YOU BY YOUR-SELF?

...I'M MARI. CAN YOU SEE ME?
SWIP!
YEAH, I CAN COME OUT. LET'S TALK
SINCE THE CAR ACCIDENT ONE YEAR AGO.
I'VE BEEN ABLE TO SEE DEAD PEOPLE.
BUT I COULDN'T SEE MY MOTHER, WHO DIED IN THE ACCIDENT
...WHAT'S WRONG?
OH, UH . I'M SORRY
DO YOU HAVE TO GO HOME NOW?
YEAH I'M SORRY
BUT I'LL COME BACK AGAIN
OKAY!
BUT I FEEL RELIEVED

SEEM LONELY
BECAUSE DEAD PEOPLE LIKE THIS GIRL
I'M HOME
WELCOME HOME, SHUN. HOW WAS SCHOOL?
IT WAS THE SAME AS ALWAYS.
DINNER IS ALMOST READY, SO GO WASH YOUR HANDS.
OKAY.

DAD...
WEL-COME HOME.
TH-THANKS
DINNER IS READY
I'LL EAT LATER
SINCE THE ACCIDENT,
DAD HASN'T GONE TO WORK AND MOST OF THE TIME HE SECLUDES HIMSELF IN HIS ROOM.
WE DON'T EAT TOGETHER ANYMORE.
AND WE RARELY HAVE ANY KIND OF CONVERSATION.
I'M SURE DAD

RESENTS THAT MOM DIED
SAVING MY LIFE.
HEY, YOU
GOT A MINUTE?
SNAP!
WHAT DO YOU WANT, SIR?
SIR...?
HOW COULD THIS YOUNG, SUPER HIP GUY BE MISTAKEN FOR AN OLD MAN!?
CAMERA READY POSE
...A PERVERT?
SLIP...
WHAT A CHEEKY BRAT...
He's carrying an alarm buzzer.
Panty alarm
SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
OH, YEAH,

!?
YES, I CAN SEE THEM TOO
BESIDES WANTING TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS THE SAME ABILITY,
I HAVE BUSINESS WITH THAT GIRL.
YOU SPOKE TO A GIRL AT THE PARK YESTERDAY, DIDN'T YOU?
FOR SOME REASON, WHENEVER SHE HEARS MY VOICE, SHE RUNS AWAY, SO I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO TALK TO HER
I'D LIKE TO MEDIATE THROUGH YOU... HOW ABOUT IT?
THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD.
.....
ABOUT THIS GUY.
I CAN'T TELL YOU
WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE WITH HER?
HOW CAN I DO SOMETHING FOR YOU IF YOU CAN'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO?
..MY, MY, TODAY'S KIDS ARE SO LEVEL-HEADED
This dude is suspicious...

OH, BY THE WAY,
?
YOU'RE TOO MUCH OF A BOTHER
OH WELL, I GIVE UP. I'LL FIGURE OUT SOMETHING ELSE

LISTEN. I DO HAVE SOME BUSINESS, BUT I DON'T WANT TO TALK
DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY YOU HAD SOME BUSINESS WITH THAT GIRL?
WHY?
YOU SHOULD QUIT TALKING TO DEAD PEOPLE...
CLENCH!!
...BUT

DON'T THEY SEEM SAD?
NOBODY REALIZES THEY ARE THERE, SO NO ONE TALKS TO THEM
THEY MUST BE LONELY..
..LONELY, YOU SAY..?
ARE YOU REALLY TALKING ABOUT THEM?
SNIP
..HUH?
HE DISAPPEARED..!?

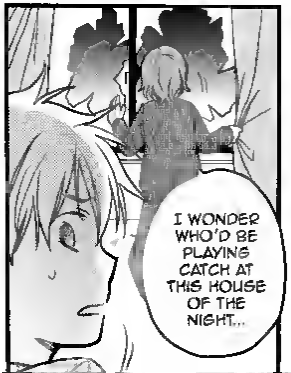
A MAN WITH DANGEROUS EYES?
UM, I DON'T KNOW OF ONE.
HE SAID WHEN HE GETS CLOSE TO YOU, YOU RUN AWAY
.....?
THAT GUY! I KNEW HE WAS FULL OF CRAP!
HE'S WAY TOO SUSPICIOUS!
TEAR YOU APART!!
DON'T GO ANYWHERE NEAR HIM!
RAWR!
THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE HIM, TELL ME!
OKAY.
THANK YOU
FOR WORRYING ABOUT ME.
I HEARD SOMETHING DISTURBING.
COME TO THINK OF IT,
OH!

SOME-
THING
DISTURB-
ING?
SHUN,
DINNER
IS READY.
OKAY.
DAD,
IS
STILL
SHUT
IN HIS
ROOM.
—OH!
YEAH.
CLATTER
WELL
THEN,
SHALL
WE
EAT?

Sigh...
THAT'S YOUR FATHER'S CHAIR, ISN'T IT?
CLATTER
GRANDMA DOESN'T TALK ABOUT DAD IN FRONT OF ME.
SHE'S BEING CONSIDERATE BECAUSE SHE KNOWS DAD HATES ME.
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE!
RATTLE
...NNN?

BONK!
OUCH!
WAH!?
CRASH!
KA-CHA!
WH-WHAT WAS THAT!?
WHAT HAPPENED, SHUN? WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?
I-I'M FINE I'VE JUST GOT SOME SCRATCHES
ARE YOU OKAY!?

CLENCH
ISN'T HE WORRIED ABOUT ME?
DAD DIDN'T COME...

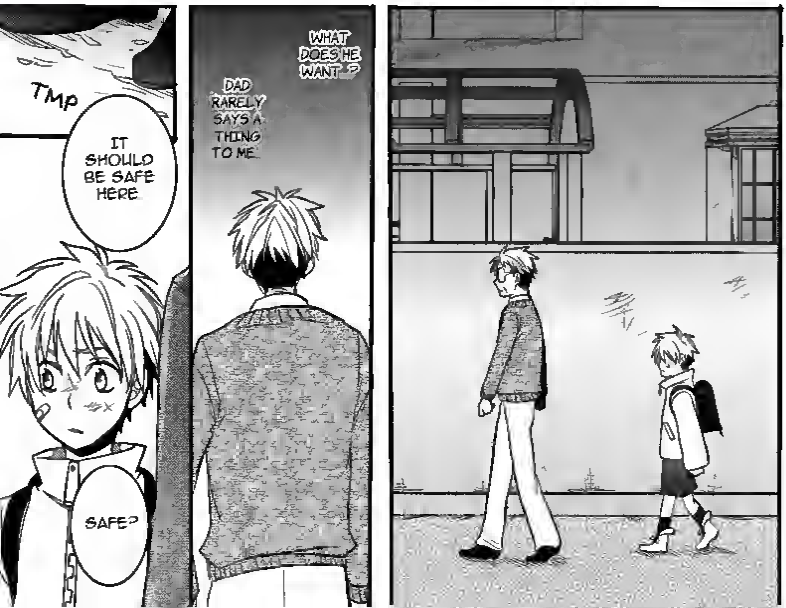

I WONDER WHO'D BE PLAYING CATCH AT THIS HOUSE OF THE NIGHT...

WREC
KED!
...SOME THING
...WEIRD IS GOING ON...
CREAK
SNAP!
SNAP?
SINCE LAST NIGHT, MY LUCK HAS BEEN EXTREMELY BAD...
SOME LUMBER ALMOST FELL ON ME,
AND A CAR SUDDENLY CAME OUT OF NOWHERE AND ALMOST HIT ME
THE ROOFTOP RAILING COLLAPSED,
SLUMP?
POP!
SNAP!
VROOM!
Luff
Luff

WH-WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON!?
SNICK
!?
WHOMP
UWAAAAH!
I-IT'S THAT GUY...!
COME TO THINK OF IT,
I HEARD SOMETHING TROUBLING.
AN EVIL SPIRIT IS TARGETING SPECIAL PEOPLE LIKE YOU, WHO CAN SEE AND TALK TO SPIRITS LIKE ME.
AN EVIL SPIRIT?
AN EVIL SPIRIT IS EATING WEAK SPIRITS LIKE ME AND
POSSESSING THE LIVING.

I HAVE BUSINESS, BUT I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO HER.
COULD IT BE THAT GUY...?
WAIT!!
DASH!
!?
...DAD!?
SHUN?
WHAT HAPPENED?
DID YOU SEE A MAN JUST GO AROUND THE CORNER HERE?
NO NOBODY CAME THIS WAY
I KNEW IT! IF DAD CAN'T SEE HIM...
THEN THAT MEANS...

THAT GUY IS A GHOST!
SHUN,
UH,
YES?
COULD YOU COME WITH ME FOR A BIT?


TMP
IT SHOULD BE SAFE HERE
SAFE?
DAD RARELY SAYS A THING TO ME
WHAT DOES HE WANT?

A SHINTO SHRINE...?
SHUN,
LATELY DANGEROUS THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING TO YOU, RIGHT?
HERE
Traffic Safety
A CHARM...?
...WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU?
CRUSH!

SMACK!
I SHOULD HAVE DIED...!
YOU REGRET THAT MOM DIED INSTEAD OF ME!
YOU REGRET IT, DON'T YOU?!
SHUN... THAT'S—
EVEN MOM...
IF SOMETHING LIKE THIS COULD SAVE LIVES, THEN NO ONE WOULD HAVE TO DIE!
UNTIL NOW, FOR SOME REASON YOU'VE BEEN IGNORING ME!

ZING!
.....!
PASH!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS?!
DASH!
WAIT, SHUN!
SHUN!

I'M FINE...TAKE SHUN.
DON'T SAY SOMETHING SO RIDICULOUS!
JOLT
IF YOU BECOME LIKE ME,
MARI-CHAN?
THEN WE CAN PLAY TOGETHER FOREVER, RIGHT?
SWIPE

BUT DON'T THEY SEEM SAD?
NOBODY REALIZES THEY ARE THERE, SO NO ONE TALKS TO THEM.
THEY MUST BE LONELY...
UP UNTIL NOW, SHE'S BEEN...
OH, I SEE...
HUH?

NO, I WAS TALKING ABOUT MYSELF.
I THOUGHT MY DAD HATED ME.
AND I SUPERIMPOSED IT ON THE GHOSTS.
I'M LONELY
ARE YOU REALLY TALKING ABOUT THEM?

...NNN...
WHERE AM I...?
OH?
Y-
YOU!
YO!
WE MEET AGAIN.
AM I DEAD..?
UNFORTU-NATELY, YOU'RE NOT DEAD YET
?!

YOU'VE CAUSED ME A LOT OF TROUBLE...
REACH
AT LAST I'VE CAPTURED YOU, LITTLE GIRL.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HER...?
!
YOU'LL SEE SOON ENOUGH!
LITTLE GIRL YOU HAVE A WISH. DON'T YOU?
TELL ME.
A... WISH...?
YES.
I CAN GRANT YOU ONLY ONE BUT IT CAN BE ANY-THING.
?!!

MOMMY...
I WANT MY MOMMY...!
?!
CRACKLE!
...UNDERSTOOD.
FLASH!

WHOOSH
WITH THIS, IT'S OVER...
WH...?
WH-WHAT ARE YOU...?
...I AM A SOUL COLLECTOR.
I GRANT WISHES TO THE DEAD AND THEN TAKE THEIR SOULS.
W-YOU'RE A DEMON?!
HOW RUDE!
THEY'RE DIFFERENT FROM ME. THEY EAT THE SOULS OF THE LIVING
DON'T LUMP ME IN WITH THOSE GUYS
AFTER ALL, THEY'RE ALREADY DEAD.
BUT DOESN'T THIS SEEM FAIR TO YOU?

YOU'RE STILL WANDERING THE BORDER BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.
YOU COULD LIVE OR YOU COULD DIE.
BUT YOU ARE DIFFERENT.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
YOU SHOULDN'T TALK TO THE DEAD.
DOESN'T MATTER.
WHETHER I LIVE... OR DIE
HUH?
I DON'T HAVE ANY WISHES, SO
I SEE... BUT,
...un!
!!
Shun!
IF YOU WANT MY SOUL, YOU CAN TAKE IT.
.....

IS FRANTICALLY TRYING TO SAVE YOUR LIFE
YOUR FATHER
DAD ...?
Shun! Stay with me!
I'M ALREADY DEAD.
SHUN! PLEASE! IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
...WHAT'S GOING ON..?
...WHY...?
STOP.
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT I'LL SAVE YOU!
BACK THEN

I COULDN'T SAVE YOUR MOTHER
I'M SURE
YOU BLAME ME FOR HER DEATH
...NO!
I DON'T BLAME MY DAD! IT'S MY FAULT MOM DIED!
THAT'S WHAT
DAD THOUGHT ...
THAT'S WHY I THINK I'D BE BETTER OFF DEAD.
THERE-FORE I MUST
SAVE YOU...
DAD!!!
GUH ...!
GRUMBLE
WHAT A FOOLISH FATHER
HE'S SAVING A SON WHO HAS ALREADY GIVEN UP ON LIVING
!

.. WHAT ?!
WELL, WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?
IF YOU WANT TO DIE, THEN THAT'S YOUR WISH.
DAD..!
SHUN!
!
LIVE, SHUN!
LIVE, SHUN!
SHUN!
DA..D..?
OPEN YOUR EYES, SHUN!
OH YEAH

PLEASE!
PLEASE, GIVE ME
the power to save Shun!
Gasp!
DAD TRULY CARES ABOUT ME.
HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN?

OKAY. THIS IS WHERE I LEAVE.
BYE.
WAIT!
SHUN... PLEASE, YOU HAVE TO...
LIVE.

SHUN!
...Gasp!
SHUN! YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE...
THANK GOOD-NESS...!
SPRING!
SHUN...
DAD SAVED ME...!
W-WHERE'S DAD?!
GASP!
YOU POOR DEAR. YOUR MEMORIES ARE ALL JUMBLED UP...
GRAND-MA...

LAST YEAR...
YOUR DAD DIED ALONG WITH YOUR MOM
IN A CAR ACCIDENT...
WHAT?

THANKS TO YOU, I WAS ABLE TO SAVE SHUN.
THANK YOU.
THANKS TO HER, AT LAST I GET TO TAKE YOUR SOUL.
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE DOING THE THANKING.
...
ONE YEAR AGO, YOUR DEAD WIFE SAID TO ME
AT LEAST LET HIM BE BY SHUN'S SIDE...
BUT YOUR WIFE DIDN'T KNOW,
AT THAT TIME, YOU'D DIE LATER IN ORDER TO SAVE YOUR SON
SINCE I DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO RESURRECT PEOPLE,
YOUR SOUL WENT TO YOUR SON'S SIDE.

BECAUSE THAT WAS YOUR WIFE'S WISH.
...
HOWEVER, THE AIR ON THE EARTH IS POISONOUS TO SOULS.
IF THEY CONTINUE TO STAY, THEY BEGIN TO STRONGLY ENVY THE LIVING AND THEN TURN INTO EVIL SPIRITS.
LIKE THIS ONE.
AT MOST, A SOUL CAN LAST 3 TO 6 MONTHS.
BUT YOU, HONESTLY, SURPRISED ME.
...DID YOU FOLLOW ME AROUND BECAUSE I WAS BOUND BY THE WISH?
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO HEAR.
IF YOU HAD BECOME AN EVIL SPIRIT, IT WOULD HAVE MULTIPLIED MY WORK.
HMPH, IT WASN'T FOR YOUR SAKE.
ON TOP OF THAT, I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE FACE TO YOUR WIFE.
AN UNEXPECTEDLY EARNEST PERSON.
...
YOU ARE
HUH?

WAS
.0.
IT ALL...
A DREAM ?
!
DAD...
SQUEEZE

Look forward to Watsuchi Koyuma-sensei's next work. ♡ Your feedback is welcome!

SO?
IT SEEMS THAT GHOSTS LIKE TO GATHER AROUND YOU, SO UNTIL THE SITUATION IMPROVES, LET ME MOOCH OFF OF YOU!
CAN I HAVE SOME MORE TEA, GRANNY?
GET OUT!

The End